

DRAFT
Meeting Minutes
Diversion Effects on Fish Team (DEFT)
July 28, 1998
9:00am to 5:00pm

Participants

M. Fris, K. Halupka, P. Chadwick, J. White, S. Greene, P. Rhoads, E. Holland, J. Buell, R. Ott, P. Fujitani, T. Smith, J. Snow, G. Stern, D. Hayes, M. Holderman, J. Miyamoto, P. Nader

Harvest Management team

The following team was proposed to address Harvest management issues:

- Serge Birk(lead)-CVPWA
- Bill Kier-PCFFA
- Jim Buell-MWDSC
- Joe Miyamoto-EBMUB
- LB Boydstun-F&G
- Paul Spencer-NMFS
- Steve Lindley-NMFS
- Rod Fujita-EDF
- Terry Mills-CALFED

The team will look at ocean harvest regulations and practices and give views and ideas on actions that could assist with recovery and the percentage that ocean harvest could play in recovery.

Georgiana Slough

About 1/5 of the salmon run enters the central Delta through Georgiana Slough. Given the results of DWR analysis of water needed to provide a hydraulic barrier and the biological concern of impacts on Sacramento and Mokelumne salmon, the team dropped further analysis of hydraulic and physical barriers on Georgiana Slough. Instead of Barriers that will have impacts, design an adaptive managed habitat program and monitoring program for fish the fish migration route.

ISDP

Steve Roberts-DWR gave a presentation of the latest considerations of the ISDP which included:

- Operable Old River fish barrier
- Three south Delta waterway control structures
- Clifton Court Forebay intake structure
- Channel enlargement along Old River
- Modified Operation Rules

The DEFT agreed that a new intake with a (5,000-7,000 cfs)screen at the head of CCF could have some benefit for Sacramento River Salmon and most benefit for San Joaquin and east side tributary salmon. Some benefit would be provided for striped bass and delta smelt, but not sure

how much. Could be implemented in Stage I.

Depending on the operations, DEFT felt that an operable fish barrier could have positive benefits for San Joaquin salmon, nurtural or slightly negative effect for Sacramento River salmon and stripped bass, and a negative effect on eastside salmon and delta smelt. Could be implemented in Stage I.

2 or 3 Ag barriers. DEFT felt that there could be a nurtural or negative benefit for Sacramento salmon and negative effects on the remaining species, depending on operations.

Ag barriers are needed with constant pumping. May not need dredging with constant pumping.

An option considered instead of Ag barriers to solve the south Delta water stage problem, was consolidation of diversions. Economics, difficulty to convey water for all Ag needs, potential navigation hazards precluded that option.

The cone of influence on fisheries is only extended in local areas with proposed operations and the new barriers.

Research Screens at Tracy

To provide research on reducing entrainment that improves populations the DEFT team agreed that the Tracy research screens (full module, 2,500 cfs) would have positive results for all species.

Intertie

Depending on the diversions at head of CCF and Tracy could provide flexibility of using both diversions. DEFT not sure of the advantage to fish of intertie.

South Stub

All DEFT members present agreed that the south stub could have negative effects on Sacramento and San Joaquin salmon, a large negative effect on eastside tributary salmon, and a nurtural to negative effect on striped bass and delta smelt. Would require salvage to meet agencies fishery criteria. It also could not be built in Stage I.

Research Screen at Hood

Some of the DEFT members felt that there would valuable information gained on the bypasses, debris and sediment management, and possibly upstream passage if a research screen were built at Hood in Step 1. May:

- raise more questions that we answer.
- show negative impacts
- be perceived at start of Alternative 2 or 3

Georgiana Slough and DCC Screens

For hydrodynamic reasons pointed out by the Fish Facilities Team and for biological reasons cited by the DEFT team no further consideration will be given to screens at these locations.

Designing screens at 0.2 fps and overrunning to 0.4 cfs approach velocity

DEFT needs to check with fishery agencies if this is possible at times.

To oversize pumps to accommodate this flexibility is not a high stranded cost.

Operations

Reviewed runs from Elise Holland (see Elise's e-mail for run hypotheses)

Run 1

From DEFT report most protection needed in OCT-JAN

Cost to water supply relax July, Aug, Sept

Run 2

Additional VAMP

Extend to two months to capture more of the middle of the run.

Need to do better than the accord

Run 3 X2

Aug and Sept 75%

May need to ramp up in July to get to full 10,300 cfs in August

If the fish Q's are positive could relax E/I ratio and visa versa.

What are the windows of opportunity for pumping given:

- Joint point
- ISDP
- Unlimited SWP capacity
- others

Need to consider groundwater storage and groundwater banking in south Delta OCT-FEB

Gary Stern-Oct, Nov, Dec, January genetics showing more improvement to winter run (wild fish)

Gary Stern-For a critical water year-Feb E/I of 45% may have impacts on winter and spring run. May move Feb to 35% for all years. In Feb and Mar may get neg QWEST even with 35% E/I ration. In Stage I do get little benefits form common programs need to reconsider E/I ratio for in spring to be more protective.

Delta Smelt and Striped Bass teams said more Delta outflow would benefit fisheries. Looking for relationship of Delta outflow/pumpage/survival- **Pete will talk to Lee Miller**

Need Frequency analysis on benefit of E/I ration by months-**Ron ask Mark if it can be done from existing model runs.**

Concept is to:

Identify operations actions for fish (with hypothesis support)

Prioritize actions(what team does this)

Stage the implementation (schedule and time)

Monitor and research populations

Delta Cross channel

Closing to protect species and opening at non critical times for water fish and water quality

Habitat

Habitat in Old and Middle River(two hypotheses) Big enough to make a difference

- Intercept habitat, gives them a place to go.
- Attractive nuisance grow fish for pumps

Have not prioritize habitat

Add Georgiana Slough and Steamboat Slough

Add Lower San Joaquin flood plain.

Next Meeting

Thursday, July 30th

3:00 to 5:00pm

Room # 1147-C